

MINUTES OF THE MERCER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD
MEETING HELD MONDAY OCTOBER 7, 2019
IN THE EXTENSION SERVICE BUILDING
1440 PARKSIDE AVENUE, EWING, N.J.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Steve Jany called this meeting to order at 7:50 PM.

II. COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of this meeting was given to the Trenton Times, Trentonian, Mercer County Clerk, and posted in the Mercer County Administration Building.

III. ROLL CALL

A. Voting Members:

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| Steve Jany, Chairman – Present | Scott Ellis – Present |
| Frank D’Amico, Vice-Chairman – Present | Gary Mount – Present |
| Kristine Walsh – Present | Theodora Wang – Present |
| Laurie Emde – Absent | |

B. Non-voting Members:

Bill Agress/County Planning Board Liaison – Present
Meredith Melendez/Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension – Present
Amy Mandelbaum/ State Agricultural Development Commission

C. Others Present:

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| Regine Delcy, substitute for Emily Blackman CADB Secretary, Leslie Floyd, County Planning Director, | Public: Ashley Kerr, Tamia MacQueen |
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IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Mr. Mount and seconded by Mr. Ellis, the minutes of the June 3, 2019 regular meeting were unanimously approved.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Ellis requested that his CADB packet be mailed to him instead of emailed.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

VII. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

A. SADC: Ms. Mandelbaum of the SADC introduced herself and passed out the SADC Partner Update Newsletter with budget updates. She stated that stewardship funds have increased she will discuss these updates with Ms. Blackman upon her return. Ms. Mandelbaum discussed the requirements for direct easements. Ms. Mandelbaum stated that a forestry program should be completed in roughly 5 years.

B. Land Development Activity: None.

C. Farmland Preservation Status: None.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

- *Monitoring:*
 - *Guzikowski Farm, Hamilton:* Ms. Floyd reported on the status of the farm. Guzikowski violated several animal protection laws and the matter is currently working its way through the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office. Guzikowski has plans to sell the property to a new owner.
 - *DiPaola Turkey Farm, Hamilton:* Ms. Floyd reported that Ms. Blackman made a visit to the farm upon request from Mr. DiPaola. Mr. DiPaola informed Ms. Blackman that there are animals living on a nearby property attracting flies. Mr. DiPaola wanted Ms. Blackman to confirm that his farm is using best management practices for the flies and that his turkey farm is not the source of the flies. Ms. Blackman confirmed that the farm is controlling their flies and wrote a memo for the file.

X. NEW BUSINESS

- *Jingoli Easement House Replacement Request – Resolution 2019-07:* Ms. Floyd provided a description of the property. A neighbor purchased a portion of the property that will function as part of an existing farm in Hunterdon County. Ms. Floyd reported that the Jingoli family wants to replace the current home with a smaller, 2,600 square foot home in the same footprint of the original home with a new septic system. Ms. Floyd confirmed that the farm is not in a historic district. Mr. D'Amico proposed a motion to approve the proposed Resolution Number 2019-07. Mr. Mount seconded the motion. The motion was approved with unanimously.
- *Chowdhury (Hopewell) Exception Area Discussion:* Ms. Floyd reported that the County will purchase a portion of the farm Chowdhury Farm and deed a portion of that purchase to Hopewell Valley Open Space. Ms. Floyd presented a map of the proposed location for an exception area on the farm. Mr. Mount motioned to approve the acceptance of the Chowdhury exception area as proposed by the County. Ms. Walsh seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

XI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

- Mr. Agress invited everyone to visit the Howell Farm Corn Maze
- Ms. MacQueen introduced herself and stated that she was present to learn more about farmland in the County.
- Ms. Kerr stated that she attended the meeting because she was not certain if her family's farm was on the agenda.
- Ms. Floyd reported that Ms. Wang's appointment to the County Agricultural Development Board along with 2 other reappointments was approved by the Mercer County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Mr. Jany proposed a motion to enter into executive session. Ms. Walsh seconded the motion. The Board went into executive session at 8:15pm. Mr. Ellis proposed a motion to tend the executive session. Mr. Mount seconded the motion. The board exited executive session at 8:25pm

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 PM. The next scheduled meeting of the MCADB is December

2, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Regine Delcy,
Acting MCADB Secretary for Emily Blackman

Date adopted: February 3, 2020

Attachments, if any, are made a part of the permanent record and are filed in the Minute Book, and are located in the Mercer County Planning Division Office. All copies are available upon request.